

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
July 14, 2003**

PRESENT: THOMAS C. REYNOLDS JR, CHAIRMAN; DOUGLAS R. COOK, Co CHAIRMAN; BRIAN MCDONALD, SELECTMAN; LAURA PETRAIN, SELECTMAN.

ADMINISTRATIVE COORDINATOR: ROBERT CHRISTENSEN
RECORDING SECRETARY: KELLY BUMPUS

GUEST: Bill Couette, Kevin Demes, Joe Cox, Rod Wilson, Frank Campana, George Bougher, Dino Quimby, Paul Marsh, Matt Esenwine, Forrest Esenwine, Ginger Esenwine, Nancy Fulmore, Jeff Fulmor, Sherry Butt Dunham, Myles Rigney, Denise Dorey.

The Selectmen's Meeting was held at the Town Office Building. Chairman Reynolds commenced the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

Chairman Reynolds asked that everyone stand for the pledge of allegiance.

1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Matt Esenwine - Mr. Esenwine stated that he would like to share something that had happened the previous Saturday. Mr. Esenwine stated that himself, along with his family had visited Horrace Lake and arrived just before 6:00 p.m. Mr. Esenwine stated that about a half hour later, and gentlemen from Fire Department asked them to leave due to a fireworks display for the lake owner's association. Mr. Esenwine asked the Board who decided to kick tax payers out of the town lake for a private function? Mr. Esenwine stated he is not only a resident of the Town, but also a season pass holder. Selectman McDonald stated that the association had requested this a few months back, but nothing was suppose to happen until after 9:00 p.m. Mr. Esenwine stated he has a real issue with the lake owners, some who are seasonal residents kicking out Towns people. Selectman McDonald stated that this in fact was wrong and will look into it.

Rod Wilson – Mr. Wilson asked the Board why the previous meeting was not publicized all week? Chairman Reynolds responded that he did not know and can take it up with the Cable Committee. Mr. Wilson then stated regarding the meeting of the

30th that he did not think it was appropriate that the issues were brought up regarding Selectman Methot in his absence. Mr. Wilson stated that a lot of people in Town did not like it. Mr. Wilson asked the Board if they received a letter from Selectman Methot prior to the meeting informing them that he was not going to be in attendance? Chairman Reynolds stated the Board was aware prior to the meeting that Selectman Methot would not be in attendance. Mr. Wilson stated that according to the minutes, Selectman Cook stated that the fact Selectman Methot was not present was suspect. Mr. Wilson then asked why Selectman Cook had stated this? Selectman Cook stated there were a lot of people involved in this, and he needed to set the record straight. Selectman McDonald stated that the Board certainly brought these issues to Selectman Methot's attention prior to the last meeting. Mr. Wilson stated he still thinks that it should have been addressed while Selectman Methot was present.

Denise Dorey – Ms. Dorey informed the Board that she also did not like the term suspect used by Selectman Cook regarding Selectman Methot's absence from the last meeting. Ms. Dorey stated this sounded like there was something going on behind the scenes. Ms. Dorey stated the stuff that has been transpiring is ridiculous and has got to stop. Ms. Dorey stated that she knows of things that have happened between December and March where three individuals have left the meetings crying. Ms. Dorey stated that those who live in glass houses should not throw stones. Ms. Dorey stated that Selectman Methot was in the hospital, and there is no reason for this type of behavior.

Selectman Cook – Selectman Cook asked if he could read brief statement about what has been going on? Chairman Reynolds stated that Selectman Cook could read his statement. Selectman Cook stated that this is his personal statement. Selectman Cook stated there are time when we as individuals and society need to look at the big picture to ensure that we don't lose sight of the person as we pursue an issue. We might find that there are times when underlying, more important issues need to be considered. Errors in judgement and behavior can and do happen. Ideally, those wrong doings are corrected. Realistically however, that does not always happen. Each of us have been elected to this Board by a certain population of voters of this Town. While every comment and decision we make can not be popular with every citizen, we must ensure that every member of this Town's population is represented, and that the representation is fair and honest. We must remain diligent in our efforts to earn and maintain that trust. Sometimes we need to forgive and move on. While we may forgive, we may never forget. We must not inquire what questionable behavior is acceptable and will be tolerated, just that we forgive. Hopefully forgiveness will enable us all to focus on life's greater issues.

2. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Reynolds moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Nonpublic Session at 7:28 p.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c). Seconded by Selectman Cook. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In Attendance: Chairman Reynolds, Selectman McDonald, Selectman Petrain, Selectman Cook, Chief Miles Rigney, Mr. Bob Christensen, Ms. Kelly Bumpus.

Chairman Reynolds moved to come out of Nonpublic Session at 7:55 p.m. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reynolds moved to seal and restrict the minutes of the Nonpublic Session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 III. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to hire Ms. Sherry Butt Dunham as part time clerk for the Police Department at \$10.00 per hour. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously. Chairman Reynolds welcomed Ms. Butt Dunham.

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to hire Mr. William Quigley as a part time officer at \$20.14 per hour. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reynolds made a motion to terminate Mr. Michael Geha. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

3. WIDENING OF SAWYER ROAD

Mr. and Ms. Fulmore informed the Board that they have been granted permission to build a house on Sawyer Road. Mr. Fulmore stated they need to have the engineering done and are here to get a final blessing from the Board. Chairman Reynolds asked who is paying for the work? Mr. Fulmore stated that he is paying for the work to Sawyer Road. Selectman McDonald stated it was his understanding that there was a problem with a septic system, and asked if this has been resolved? Mr. Fulmore stated that the road is wide enough in that area and will not be a problem. Mr. Fulmore stated that if possible, they would like to go ahead and have the work done without an engineer. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Carl Knapp if he is comfortable with them

not hiring an engineer? Mr. Knapp stated that as long as he is kept informed of what is going on it should not be a problem. Mr. Knapp stated that he has been kept informed thus far. Selectman McDonald made motion that they authorize Sawyer Road to be widened to 20 feet and other zoning board provisions be adhered to. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. Selectman Cook stated he would like to amend the motion to keep Mr. Knapp involved. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

4. PUBLIC WORKS

Four engineering and designing companies presented presentations to the Board regarding bridge work to be done to Woodbury Road and Abijah Bridge Road. Edwards and Kelcey Inc., McFarland Johnson Inc., Holden, and SEA Consultants Inc. all discussed with the Board the differences between concrete and timber bridges, and their availability to perform the work. Chairman Reynolds asked Mr. Knapp if he was prepared to make a recommendation? Mr. Knapp stated he will be prepared to make a recommendation at the next meeting.

5. BENEFIT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Mr. Steve Richardson provided the Board with an employee input form to be used in conjunction with the evaluation form. Mr. Richardson stated that this will be an optional form for employees to complete. Mr. Richardson and the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding employee evaluations. Mr. Richardson asked the Board if they agreed with having the Administrative Coordinator involved with the evaluation process. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Administrative Coordinator should be involved with the process to ensure continuity. Mr. Richardson and the Board discussed a length the option of merit increases and COLA increases. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Benefit Review Committee is moving in right direction. Mr. Richardson stated that he would like to meet with the board again on august 25th to discuss job descriptions and salary ranges. Chairman Reynolds stated this was acceptable.

6. GEO INSIGHT REPORT AND WORK NEEDED DISCUSSION

The Board discussed the work needed to cleanup the Burpee property. Mr. Christensen stated that the GEO Insight Report Cook has indicated surface contamination, but no subsurface contamination to be alarmed about. Chairman Reynolds stated they will put the work out to bid. Mr. Christensen asked the Board if the information concerning this issue is now public knowledge? Chairman Reynolds stated that it is public knowledge. Selectman Cook made a motion to put the cleanup

of the Burpee property out to bid. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Holly Hill Development -

Selectman Cook stated he would like to discuss the Holly Hill development. Selectman Cook stated that he watched a Planning Board meeting and asked Mr. Knapp to summarize his issues. Mr. Knapp stated that the intersection is a concern, and the hill needs to be widened. Mr. Knapp stated that he has an issue with that much traffic coming down the hill in the winter. Mr. Knapp stated nothing can be done about the hill. Selectman Cook asked Mr. Knapp if something can be done with the intersection on Thorndike Road. Mr. Knapp stated that they can do something about that intersection. Selectman Cook stated that the Board should have Mr. Paul Morin come in for a discussion. Selectman Cook stated that he feels that some issues are being rushed through due to the extensive agenda of the Planning Board. He stated he wants to make sure the residents have a chance to state their opinion. Selectman Cook stated that he is worried that the Planning Board has too much on their agendas to sufficiently look at the developments and the issues involved with them. Chairman Reynolds stated they would see if Mr. Morin is available for the next Board of Selectmen meeting.

Safety Complex –

Chairman Reynolds stated he would like to discuss a safety complex issue. He stated that there is a problem with the exhaust system for the Fire Department. Selectman Cook explained that the bid for the original system did not include installation. Selectman Cook stated that Chicoine has found another company to do the system, but apparently is not to the standards of the first. Mr. Christensen informed the Board that there has been a problem with communication and obtaining information regarding the system. Selectman Cook requested the Board meet with Ms. Kelly Lineberry and a representative from Prymovent to solve the problem.

Electrical -

Mr. Christensen informed the Board that the electrical issues for the Town Office Building have been resolved. He stated that the work was performed the previous Friday and Saturday.

Donation to the Happy Weare-ites -

Selectman McDonald stated that he had a discussion with a resident concerning a generous businessman giving the Happy Weare-ites a donation. Selectman McDonald

asked if this was allowed? Chairman Reynolds stated that they are a private organization and can accept donations.

Employee Raises -

Selectman Petrain stated that at the last meeting the Board approved raises. Selectman Petrain stated she has received some questions from the employees regarding who is getting raises and who is not. Chairman Reynolds informed Mr. Christensen that the Board approved the raises and that the department heads can be provided with the list.

Library -

Selectman Petrain stated she does not want to see the library left out in regards to raises. Chairman Reynolds agreed. Selectman Petrain asked Chairman Reynolds if he has any ideas for coming up with the money for Library employee raises. Chairman Reynolds stated they may be able to get some money from the Assessing line. Selectman Cook stated that they should maintain what they budgeted for. He stated that they had \$40,000.00 for raises, and they have used all of it. Chairman Reynolds stated maybe they can find some money to meet these few requests. Selectman McDonald stated that he agrees with Selectman Cook and that it is a credibility issue. Selectman McDonald stated that they set a certain amount aside for raises and should not look to other areas for additional money.

Legal Expenses -

Selectman Petrain stated she would like to discuss the legal expenses regarding the Trustees. She stated that she is concerned with the expenses incurred. Selectman Petrain asked who authorized legal to request a letter from the Attorney General? Chairman Reynolds stated that it may not have been a vote, but that it was a consensus of the Board to proceed with this.

Minutes Transcriber -

Selectman Petrain stated money can be saved by not having the Minutes Transcriber attend the meetings. She stated she does not see a difference in quality of work when Ms. Bumpus is not in attendance. Selectman Cook stated they have discussed this in the past and it will not save that much. Chairman Reynolds stated that the nonpublic minutes are much more detailed when done by the Transcriber. Selectman Petrain stated she has not read or approved any nonpublic minutes to date.

Administrative Coordinator Attending Conferences -

Selectman Petrain asked Mr. Christensen the cost of the last conference he attended. Mr. Christensen informed Selectman Petrain that the cost was \$213.84. Selectman Petrain stated that she does not mind and has no problem with Mr. Christensen

attending the last conference with the Police Chief. Selectman Petrain stated that Mr. Christensen is still on his probationary period. She stated she does not think they should be paying salary and accommodations for an employee on their probationary period. Selectman Cook stated that he disagreed and that Mr. Christensen found the conference of value and that only benefits the Town. Selectman Petrain stated that Mr. Christensen is still learning a new job, and although he has made networking connections, until he understands the job fully, can not understand the value of the conference.

Dog Warrant Extension -

Chairman Reynolds stated they have received a request from Mr. Mark Bananza regarding an extension for the dog warrant until August 31st. Chairman Reynolds made a motion to extend the dog warrant until August 31st. Seconded by Selectman Petrain. Selectman Cook asked the Board to find out the reason for this. A vote was taken. Motion passed 3 in favor; 1 opposed (Selectman Cook).

Zoning Board Appointment -

Chairman Reynolds stated that there is a request to appoint Mr. Harry Wetherbee to a full member. Selectman Cook made a motion to appoint Mr. Wetherbee to a full member of the Zoning Board. Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Bolton Field -

Chairman Reynolds asked the Board if they have all had a chance to go and look at the lawn at Bolton Field? The Board stated they have not. Chairman Reynolds stated that the Board will hold off on paying the \$5,000.00 bill until the Board has had a chance to make sure the lawn is all right. Selectman Petrain stated that the \$5,000.00 should come out of the Ball Field Development Fund and not the Ball Field Improvement fund. Chairman Reynolds agreed.

Manifest -

Chairman Reynolds authorized the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated July 17, 2003. Accounts Payable – \$336,530.77, Gross Payrolls - \$28,455.35, for a total of - \$364,986.12. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reynolds authorized the Board of Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign checks dated July 24, 2003. Estimated Accounts Payable – \$200,000.00, Estimated Gross Payrolls - \$28,000.00, for an estimated total of - \$228,000.00. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Pole Agreement -

Selectman Cook made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the yearly pole agreement. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Personnel Policy -

Mr. Christensen informed the Board that Mr. Steve Richardson has some issues to discuss concerning the personnel policy. Mr. Richardson went over some changes in wording and some additions for part-time employees.

Master Plan Agreement -

Selectman Cook made a motion to authorize the Chairman to sign the agreement between Southern New Hampshire Planning Board and Town of Weare regarding the master plan. Seconded by Selectman Petrain. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Foliage Trip -

Selectman McDonald wanted to inform the public that Parks and Recreation are planning a foliage trip in the fall.

First Aid Kits -

Selectman McDonald thanked the Fire Department for their help in providing first aid kits to Chase Park.

Computer Equipment -

Selectman Cook stated that the computer inventory has been completed. Selectman Cook asked Mr. Christensen for additional information regarding hard drive capacity and processor speed.

Hoitt Hill -

Selectman Cook stated that the Board of Fire Wards had some concerns that there are garages being added to some homes on Hoitt Hill without sprinkler systems. Selectman Cook requested that Mr. Stone provide a report concerning this issue.

High Rock Development -

Selectman Cook stated there is a driveway that was not constructed according to the plan on River Road. Selectman Cook requested that Mr. Stone provide a report concerning this issue.

Personnel Policy -

Selectman Petrain stated that Mr. Christensen did a very good job going over the personnel policy and making corrections.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Jonathan Wallace – Mr. Wallace stated he would like to discuss his feeling about Selectman Methot. Mr. Wallace stated that if in fact Selectman Methot he has lied, is amazed that some people are defending him. He stated that the issue needs to be resolved one way or another. Mr. Wallace stated he has done some research, and referred to the Goffstown News. He read that back in 2000, Selectman Methot had informed employees of a hit list of Selectmen. Mr. Wallace stated this was a very upsetting situation for all those involved. Mr. Wallace stated that he then went back and read Selectman Methot's election comments regarding the tension between the Board and the Town employees needing to end. Mr. Wallace informed the Board that regarding the issue with the cable room theft report, he would like the facts exposed. He stated the Board needs to state what happened in that meeting. He stated that it is his understanding that Selectman Methot filed a false report. Mr. Wallace stated he thinks Selectman Methot should know that the people he has talked to are very upset over the situation. Mr. Wallace stated this is a serious thing. Mr. Wallace went on to state that he thinks people demand integrity from politicians and from the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Wallace concluded by stating he does not accept lying from any public servant, that it is not right, and encourages the Board to bring this to a resolution.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Selectman Cook moved that the Board of Selectmen enter into Nonpublic Session at 12:55 a.m. pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c). Seconded by Chairman Reynolds. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

In Attendance: Chairman Reynolds, Selectman McDonald, Selectman Petrain, Selectman Cook, Mr. Bob Christensen, Ms. Kelly Bumpus.

Chairman Reynolds moved to come out of Nonpublic Session at 12:58 a.m. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A roll call vote was taken. Selectman McDonald – yes; Chairman Reynolds – yes; Selectman Petrain – yes; Selectman Cook - yes. Motion passed unanimously.

Chairman Reynolds moved to seal and restrict the minutes of the Nonpublic Session pursuant to the authority granted in RSA 91-A:3 III. Seconded by Selectman Cook. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Cook made a motion to adjourn at 12:59 a.m. Seconded by Selectman McDonald. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A True Record

Kelly Bumpus, Recording Secretary